UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/253
8 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the spokesman of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army dated 4 April 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-08558 (E) 080496 090496

/...

Annex

Statement by the spokesman of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army

Panmunjom, 4 April 1996

The First Vice-Minister of the People's Armed Forces, in his statement on 29 March, made clear that the Korean People's Army would take legitimate self-defensive steps to cope with the ill-boding military moves which had become frequent in areas south of the military demarcation line (MDL), reminding one of a situation on the brink of war.

We put forward reasonable proposals long ago to turn the demilitarized zone (DMZ) into a peace zone, a buffer zone, and to prevent war in the Korean peninsula, and have exerted patient efforts to put them into effect.

However, the south Korean authorities have persistently rejected our proposals and driven the situation to the brink of war under the protection of their master, the United States, so that we can no longer expect a negotiated solution.

The armistice agreement stipulates that heavy and automatic weapons shall not be brought into DMZ and in no case shall the total number of military personnel from each side who are permitted to enter DMZ exceed 1,000. But the south Korean military authorities, ignoring the agreement, have brought many tanks, various kinds of artillery pieces and heavy weapons into DMZ and deployed a large number of armed military personnel.

They have even openly built large military facilities at the Oryonggye post in DMZ only 100 metres from MDL.

The areas south of MDL have been left without the real meaning of a buffer zone and DMZ established under the armistice agreement has turned into an armed zone and a new attack position for the invasion of the north.

This situation has made us no longer observe unilaterally the articles of the armistice agreement concerning DMZ.

There is a limit to our restraint and patience.

The Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army is authorized to announce that the following self-defensive measures will be taken immediately now that the status of DMZ cannot be maintained any longer:

First, the Korean People's Army side shall give up its duty, under the armistice agreement, concerning the maintenance and control of the military demarcation line and DMZ;

Secondly, the Korean People's Army side shall, as a follow-up step to the first measure, have its personnel and vehicles bear no distinctive insignia and marking when they enter the joint security area of Panmunjom and DMZ.

The responsibility for the measures we cannot but take lies with those who have flagrantly violated the armistice agreement and the order in DMZ.